



Comptroller General  
of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20548

*Stephanie Blesher*  
*signed by Christine*  
*Melody*

## Decision

**Matter of:** United International Investigative Services  
**File:** B-262089  
**Date:** July 27, 1995

### DECISION

United International Investigative Services protest as unduly restrictive the terms of solicitation No. S-GR100-95-R-0001, issued by the Department of State. United contends that the solicitation was "restrictive and favored the incumbent contractor," giving the incumbent an unfair price advantage.

We dismiss the protest as untimely because it challenges an alleged impropriety in the solicitation that should have been protested before the March 31, 1995, initial closing time for submission of proposals.

Our Bid Protest Regulations contain strict rules requiring timely submission of protests. These rules specifically require that protests based upon alleged improprieties in a solicitation which are apparent prior to the closing date for receipt of initial proposals must be filed prior to the closing time. 4 C.F.R. § 21.2(a)(1); Engelhard Corp., B-237824, Mar. 23, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 324.

These timeliness rules reflect the dual requirements of giving parties a fair opportunity to present their cases and resolving protests expeditiously without unduly disrupting or delaying the procurement process. Air Inc.-Request for Recon., B-238220.2, Jan. 29, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 129. In order to prevent these rules from becoming meaningless, exceptions are strictly construed and rarely used. Id.

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